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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

**HODGKINSON et al**

Atty. Ref.: **36-1437**

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/GB99/03353**

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Examiner:

For: **COMPUTER COMMUNICATION**

\* \* \* \* \*

**March 15, 2001**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS (AS ON AMENDED SHEETS ATTACHED TO IPER)**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

1. (Amended) A method of transmitting data from a server computer to a client computer over a communications network, the data being routed between the server and client computers by a network node;

the network node having an input to receive data from the server computer, the input being connected to first and second buffer elements, said buffer elements being connected to an output channel of predetermined bandwidth, wherein the first buffer element is preferentially allocated a portion of the output bandwidth and the second buffer element is allocated a remaining portion of the output bandwidth such that